AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Printing device for receipts, each receipt having a first area bearing constant data~~, i.e. unchanging from one receipt to the next, such as symbols and/or markings, suitable for identifying said receipts~~ that is the same from one receipt to another, and a second area bearing variable data~~, i.e. subject to change from one receipt to the next, such as numerical data corresponding to the operations to be documented on each of said receipts~~ that varies from one receipt to another, said device comprising:

a roll ~~of paper suitable for feeding, through a print path,~~ containing a continuous paper ribbon,

a first printing unit, ink jet, dot-matrix type,

a second printing unit thermal, dot-matrix type, said first and said second printing units being arranged along ~~said~~ a print path,

a feeding ~~means~~ mechanism ~~for feeding~~ that feeds said paper ribbon along said print path~~,~~ ~~whereby~~ to permit printing of said paper ribbon by said first and said second printing units, ~~and~~

~~cutting means for cutting~~ a cutter that cuts said continuous paper ribbon after the printing, so as to form the receipts, and

~~characterized in that~~ a control unit connected to said first ink jet printing unit and said second thermal printing unit, the control unit adapted to cause, for each receipt, said first ink jet printing unit ~~is provided for printing~~ to print on said paper ribbon said constant data, and to cause said second

thermal printing unit ~~is provided for printing~~ to print on said paper ribbon said variable data~~, for each of said receipts~~.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said roll of paper consists of special thermal paper, that is to say~~ said continuous paper ribbon comprises heat-sensitive thermal paper~~, to feed a corresponding ribbon of thermal paper through said print path,~~ and said second printing unit is ~~suitable for carrying out printing by cooperating directly on contact and~~ adapted to print on said thermal paper by selectively heating dot-like areas of said thermal paper.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~roll of paper consists of plain paper for feeding a corresponding plain paper ribbon through said print path,~~ continuous paper ribbon comprises plain paper, and said second printing unit is ~~suitable for carrying out printing~~ adapted to print on said plain paper by selectively heating dot-like areas of ~~an ink ribbon, placed between said second printing unit and said plain paper ribbon,~~ a printhead so as to transfer ~~the~~ ink ~~from said ink ribbon~~ to said plain paper ~~ribbon~~.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 1, ~~also comprising a~~ wherein said control unit ~~suitable for managing~~ is adapted to manage the operation of said printing device~~, characterized in~~ so that said first ink jet printing unit ~~is suitable for printing~~ prints said constant data for each of said receipts, automatically and independently of said variable data, during a first preliminary printing step,

and ~~in that~~ said second thermal printing unit ~~is provided for printing,~~ prints, in response to a print command, said variable data received from said control unit and relative to each of said receipts, during a second printing step following said first printing step~~,~~

~~so that the time needed to complete the printing of each of said receipts, following the activation of said print command, is significantly shortened, not comprising the time to print said constant data already printed in advance~~.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first ink jet printing unit is ~~provided for printing~~ adapted to print said constant data on said paper ribbon, in response to a print signal generated ~~immediately~~ after the cutting of a receipt.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 4, wherein said second thermal printhead is ~~suitable for printing~~ adapted to print, during said second step subsequent to said first step, a given length of said ribbon at a printing speed that is ~~significantly~~ greater than that of said first ink jet printhead, during said first step.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first ink jet printing unit is colour type for printing on said paper ribbon, in colour form, ~~said~~ predetermined symbols and/or characters.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in~~ wherein said second thermal printing unit is of the in-line type and comprises a printhead arranged in a fixed position transversally with respect to said paper ribbon and also having a width substantially corresponding to that of ~~the~~ a single line to be printed on said paper ribbon.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) Printing device according to claim 8, characterized in that said first ink jet printing unit is arranged downstream of said second thermal printing unit along said print path according to the direction of feeding of said paper ribbon.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) Printing device according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that .it is associated with~~ further comprising a further print path for single documents~~, such as cheques and bills,~~ consisting of single separate sheets, wherein said further print path extends between an entrance zone~~, suitable for receiving~~ that receives said single documents, and an exit zone ~~for delivery~~ that delivers said single documents to the outside ~~of said single documents,~~ after printing, wherein said further print path shares a common outlet stretch with the print path provided for conveying said continuous paper ribbon ~~coming from said roll of paper~~, and wherein said first ink jet printing unit is arranged along said common stretch.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) Method for the printing of receipts, each receipt having a first area bearing constant data~~, i.e. unchanging from one receipt to the next, such as symbols and/or markings, suitable for identifying said receipts~~ that is the same from one receipt to another, and a

second area bearing variable data~~, i.e. subject to change from one receipt to the next, such as numerical data corresponding to the operations to be documented on each receipt~~ that varies from one receipt to another, said method comprising the following steps:

providing a printer comprising:

a roll ~~of paper suitable for feeding~~ containing a ribbon of continuous thermal paper ~~through a print path~~,

a first ink jet type printing unit,

a second thermal type printing unit, said first and said second printing units being arranged along ~~said~~ a print path,

a feeding ~~means for feeding~~ mechanism that feeds said ribbon of thermal paper along said print path, so as to allow the printing of said ribbon of thermal paper by said first printing unit and said second printing unit, and

~~cutting means for cutting~~ a cutter that cuts said ribbon of thermal paper after the printing, so as to form said receipts,

printing on said ribbon of thermal paper~~, via~~ with said first ink jet printing unit, said constant data for each of said receipts, automatically and independently of the ~~relative~~ variable data, during a first printing step,

printing on said ribbon of thermal paper~~, via~~ with said second thermal printing unit and in response to a print command, the variable data relative to each of said receipts, during a second step successive and temporally distinct from said first step, and

cutting, with said ~~cutting means~~ cutter, said ribbon of thermal paper, so as to detach and issue the receipt~~,~~

~~whereby each receipt, following activation of said print command, is printed in a time faster than in the case where the constant data as well as the variable data had to be printed for the same receipt~~.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) Method for the printing of receipts according to claim 11, wherein the speed of said second thermal printing unit, during said second printing step, is greater than that of said first ink jet printhead, during said first printing step, when printing a respective stretch of said ribbon of thermal paper having a given length.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) Method for the printing of receipts according to claim 11, wherein said constant data is pre-stored in a control unit of said printer, and the variable data is in each case received or keyed in through an input unit associated with said printer.